



A Torah Study Guide
for the Young
& Young at Heart

by
Ya'acov Natan Lawrence
& his kids

PARASHAT
RE'EH

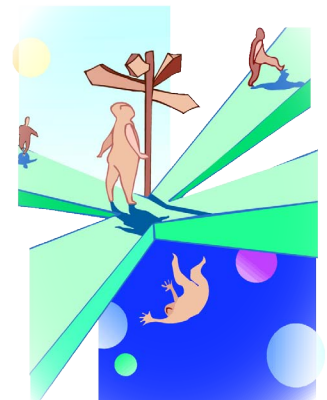
פרשת ראה

Deuteronomy 11:26-
16:17

Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.

Great Discoveries In This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion)

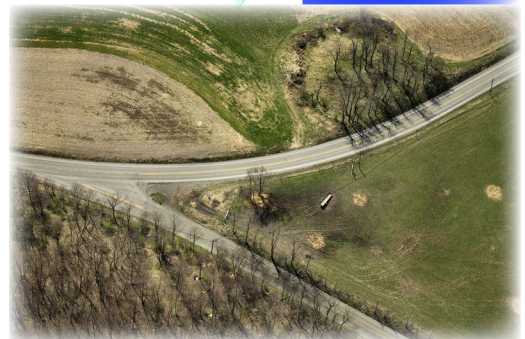
- 11:26 Blessings and Cursings for Obeying YHVH's Commands
- 12:1 Destroy the Pagan Altars and High Places
- 12:5 Worship YHVH Only Where He Has Placed His Name
- 12:28 Safeguard YHVH's Commands; The Religious Rituals of the Heathen Are an Abomination
- 13:1 Beware of the False Prophets
- 13:13 The Fate of a City That Turns from YHVH to Idolatry
- 14:1 Do Not Follow the Practices of the Heathen for Israel Is a Treasured and Kadosh (Set Apart) People
- 14:3 Unclean Things Are an Abomination to Eat
- 14:22 The Second Tithe to Be Used During the Pilgrimage Festivals in the Place Where YHVH Will Choose to Place His Name
- 15:1 Care and Love of the Poor and Needy
- 16:1 The Three Annual Pilgrimage (Aliyot) Festivals: Pesach (Passover), Shavuot (Pentecost) and Sukkot (Tabernacles)



Exploring This Week's Parashah:

1 The Power of Choice (Deuteronomy 11:26-27)





Every day we have to make many choices. Do I get up when the alarm clock goes off, or do I sleep in? Do I wear the blue or the black pants? Do I have eggs or cereal for breakfast, or do I skip eating altogether? Do I do this, or do that today, go here or go there today, say this or say that, or not say anything? How about when someone asks me to do something I don't



Life is about making choices.

want to do? What will I do? What if someone says something unkind to me? Will I turn the other cheek and say nothing, will I respond in love, or in anger? These are all choices we have to make every day. Some of these choices have few consequences negative or positive, and some of them may have huge—even life-changing consequences—if we make the wrong choice, or say and do the wrong thing!

It is for this reason that we talk about the power of choice.

-  (a) Who sets the choices before us and gives us the opportunity to choose, and who has to choose which way to go? (See Deuteronomy 11:26.)
-  (b) What are the end results of the two choices? (Read the same verse again.)
-  (c) What determines the end result of the choice we make? (Look at verse 27-28.)
-  (d) What is the ultimate blessing for those who choose to obey YHVH's Word? (Read Matthew 5:19; Revelation 2:7; 3:5,12,21; 20:6.) What is the ultimate curse for those who refuse to choose to obey YHVH? (Read Revelation 20:11-15.)

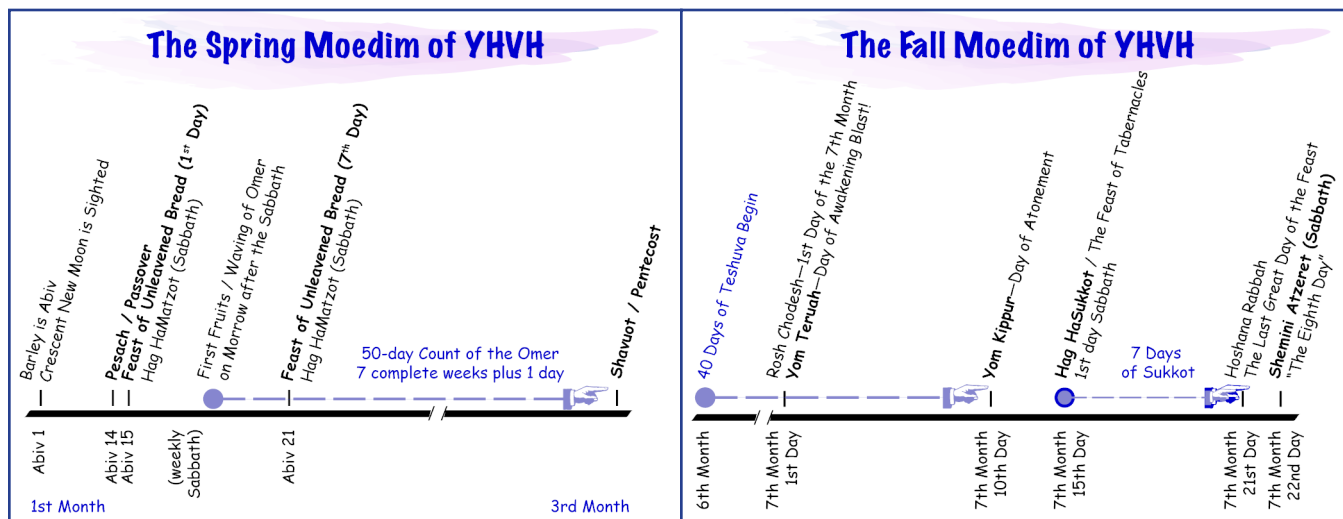
2 The Three Aliyot (Pilgrimage) Feasts (Deuteronomy 16:1-17)

The Bible teaches us that there are seven yearly festivals or feasts (or holidays) that YHVH instructs his people to keep or celebrate. He revealed these feasts to the children of Israel (see Leviticus 23) and expected the Israelites to follow the Torah—of which YHVH's feasts are a part—for a thousand generations (Deuteronomy 7:9), which is about 40,000 years!





Yeshua kept all the feasts, as did his apostles and the early "New Testament" believers. The Apostle Paul teaches us in many places that if Yeshua is our Master and Savior then we are Israelites. Therefore, the feasts of YHVH are for those of us who are a part of redeemed Israel and who are YHVH's saints.

The biblical feasts start in the springtime of each year. The three spring feasts are Passover, Unleavened Bread and Pentecost. The four fall feasts are Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles and the Eighth Day. Notice that Christmas, Easter, and the other Christian holidays ARE NOT on the list, for they are not biblical feasts!

All the feasts represent the steps in YHVH's plan of salvation for man and all point to Yeshua in some way. The spring feasts point to Yeshua's first coming and have to do with his redeeming or saving us from our sins and giving us eternal life. The fall feasts point to his second coming when the saints will receive their glorified and resurrected bodies and be with Yeshua in his kingdom forever and ever.



Although Scripture reveals that there are seven yearly feasts that YHVH's people are to keep, there were three that YHVH said that the whole nation of Israel was to celebrate together in one place.

-  (e) What were these three special feasts? (Explore Deuteronomy 16:1-3; 10,13.)
-  (f) Where are YHVH's people supposed to go to keep these three feasts? (Read verses 2, 6, 11, 17.)
-  (g) What does Scripture mean when it says to go where YHVH has chosen to place his name? We might ask the question in another way: In the wilderness when travelling with the children of Israel, where was YHVH's divine Presence located (which is where he placed his name)? How do we know where YHVH will place his name today? (Examine Matthew 18:20 and 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19 for the answer.)
-  (h) Was going to the place where YHVH chose to place his name a sad or joyous occasion for the Israelites? (Note Deuteronomy 16:15.)



The purpose for going to a special place to keep these three feasts each year was so that YHVH could meet with all of his people Israel, and all Israel would meet with each other and with their Father in heaven, YHVH Elohim, to rejoice together. It was a fun, exciting and glorious time. There were special ceremonies and meetings that occurred at these times. There was much food and feasting that went on. People got to meet old friends and make new ones. Everyone got to learn more about YHVH and together everyone could worship and praise him.

The three pilgrimage feasts were named that because everyone journeyed there like pilgrims. They were called aliyah feasts, as well, which is a Hebrew word meaning "to go up." For many years, the feasts were held in Jerusalem where the temple was and where the Presence of YHVH on earth was to be found. The temple was located on the holy (set-apart) mountain of YHVH in Jerusalem, so people always "went up" or made aliyah to meet with YHVH at the temple, which was YHVH's house on this earth.

These three feasts represent important steps that all the followers of YHVH must take in order to be part of his spiritual forever kingdom.

- Step one is Passover and Unleavened Bread. This feast pictures our leaving the world and our old sinful lives, and then accepting Yeshua the Lamb of Elohim as our Savior who died to pay the price for our sins. With his help, we put sin out of our lives and live a righteous sin-free life.
- Step two is Shavuot or the Feast of Weeks, also called Pentecost (which means count 50). On this feast, the children of Israel received the Torah-laws of YHVH that showed the Israelites how to walk in righteousness without sinning. On the day of Pentecost in

Acts 2, the early followers of Yeshua received the Holy or Set-Apart Spirit of Elohim and the Torah of YHVH was written in their hearts. With the help of the power of the Spirit of Yeshua living in them they could now faithfully walk out the Torah, and walk in a loving, faithful and obedient way before YHVH.





- Step three is the Feast of Tabernacles. This feast pictures YHVH's people victoriously overcoming the world, the flesh and the devil, walking in Torah obedience and having a living and vital relationship with Yeshua, the Living Torah or Word of Elohim made flesh. YHVH's victorious children will rule and reign in loving relationship with Yeshua in his spiritual kingdom forever and ever.

These are the three steps that all must take to get saved from their sins, live a victorious and righteous life, and live forever in YHVH's kingdom. Keeping YHVH's feasts help us to learn more fully about and understand these steps.

3 The Feast Tithe (Deuteronomy 12:17-22; 14:22-27)

Tithing is a biblical idea that goes back at least to the time of Abraham. Most Christian churches still teach the concept of tithing. Even though they do not believe that most of the rest of YHVH's laws are for them today, they still teach the importance of tithing. Tithing is merely giving back to YHVH a small portion of the money he allows us to receive when we work and earn money. It is a way to honor and worship him and for us to show him our love, to acknowledge where our provision comes from, and to help support those who do his work.

There are several types of tithes that are mentioned in Scripture. The tithe that most people are familiar with is the first tithe that goes to support YHVH's ministries and ministers. There is also a second tithe. It is like a vacation fund that YHVH's people save all year long and is used to pay for their going to his feasts. Isn't it fun to have some spending money to use when you go on vacation? Well, YHVH wants you to have a good time when you keep his feasts. Let's explore this idea a little more.

-  (i) What are the three aliyah or pilgrimage feasts again? Well, YHVH knew that if his people were to go to the place where he chose to place his name they would need some money to make the trip, right? Where did the money come from and for how long were they to save it? (See Deuteronomy 14:22.)
-  (j) When were they to use this tithe? (Read verse 23.)
-  (k) If YHVH's people needed to travel a long distance and could not take all their food with them what could they do then? (Look at verses 24-25.)
-  (l) How did YHVH instruct his people to use this tithe/vacation fund? (Read verse 26.) Isn't YHVH a good Elohim? Do you think he wants us to have a good time when celebrating his feasts?

4 Loving the Poor and Needy (Deuteronomy 14:28-29; 15:7-8)




Another important thing that the Torah teaches is to show love for the needy—those who have fallen on hard times and become poor. All of us probably know someone who has had a hard time in life and who has become needy. People become needy for many reasons. Sometimes it is because of sickness or some disaster that happens in their life. Maybe they have lost their job and can't find a



way to earn money. Perhaps they happen to have been born in a poor country where the standard of living is very low and the opportunities to earn a living are few. Some people are poor because they are lazy and refuse to work.

Most of the people reading this teaching would be considered rich by the standards of most of the people in the world. Many poor people don't even know how read. Most don't even own a computer and therefore would have no way to even get this teaching.

YHVH's Word teaches us that we are to have compassion on the poor and to help them in any way we can. That is how we show the love of Yeshua to them!

-  (m) There will always be poor people in the world. It is impossible to help them all. The Torah teaches us who we are to help and in what order we are to help them. Look at Deuteronomy 17:7. What are the three categories of poor people that we are to help? Notice that the first category of poor people mentioned are those who are closest to you such as a family member. After that, who are we to help?
-  (n) Have you ever helped someone in need? How did you feel afterwards? Have you ever had some loving and kind person help you in your time of need? Does it make you want to return the favor when you have the opportunity to help someone in their time of need? This is called "love in action" and is simply people loving and helping each other. How would the world be different if people acted this way toward each other?
-  (o) In the end of Deuteronomy 15:7 and the beginning of verse 8 we see the phrases, "harden your heart" and "open your hand." What do these ideas have to do with loving your neighbor by helping those in need? Sometimes do we want to hang on to what is ours and not share our blessing with others? Be honest and admit it, we all feel this way sometimes. How does YHVH think about such an attitude? What would happen if we become poor and needy? Would we want someone to help us? (Read Matthew 7:12, which is commonly called "the golden rule.")

